



Churt Parish Council Newsletter February 2020

Storm damage

On the whole, the Parish stood up well to the two recent storms, Ciara and Dennis. We suffered huge amounts of rain and strong winds. Unfortunately, however, a mature Cedar was uprooted on the recreation ground at the height of Storm Ciara on Sunday, 9th February. Thankfully no-one was injured and little peripheral damage was caused, but it fell across a neighbouring garden and brought down telephone lines serving properties belonging to Waverley Borough Council. I am pleased to say that the Parish Council was able to have the scene declared safe that same day and contractors were on site with heavy lifting and cutting equipment the following day.

The tree was huge and took most of the week to fully remove. Unfortunately, on the Thursday whilst the contractors were grinding and chipping the residue, Storm Dennis approached and deposited about 1 inch of rain in a few hours. The contractors' vehicles got bogged down and caused major damage to the surface of the recreation ground, through no fault of their own. On Friday, they returned and laid and levelled some 10 tons of topsoil to the damaged area. It now needs to settle and dry out before we can do anything further. Please beware that the site is very waterlogged, as is the new soil which is deep and very soft so please do not walk or cycle across it.

I want to reassure all that we regularly inspect all of our trees and we have a full inspection every three years carried out by a fully qualified arboriculturist. The next full inspection is already booked and will take place in early April.

Local Crime – a warning

Nothing of great significance has been reported to us by Surrey Police. That, however, is not necessarily the full story but it is not my intention to cause undue alarm. It has come to our notice that a motor vehicle was broken into behind the village hall about two weeks ago and items were stolen from it. The owner has not reported the theft to the Police as there was thought to be little point "as they won't do anything" and it was not worth making an insurance claim taking account of excess payments. It is however imperative that everything is reported to the Police and I urge everyone to do so, so that the Police can at least develop a picture of crime trends and maybe provide a vital piece in a larger jigsaw. Crime in the Parish is at a low level, but please be vigilant and do not leave any valuable items in your cars and ensure sheds are locked.

Environmental Issues

Councillor Myra Johnson has been busy and has formed an Environmental Working Group to be known as CHEWG - Churt Environmental Working Group. The group will be led by Councillor Johnson and consist of Councillor Bob Cordell, Councillor John Petty and local residents, Jeremy Wylie, David Madgwick, Hannah Wills and Jon Stringer. The group will consider all things environmental and what the Parish can do now and in the future to contribute towards the fight against climate change and protecting our own neighbourhood. Their first meeting will be held shortly and we are discovering that this is a huge subject!

Village BBQ

St John's Church has formally requested permission to hold the village BBQ on Redhearn Green on Saturday 27th June. This is a great village event usually held on a warm and balmy early summer evening. Remember them? Something for us all to look forward to. Please make a note of the date in your diaries.

David Crossley. Chairman

The next meetings of the Churt Parish Council and Recreation Ground Trust will take place on Weds 18th March 2020 in the pavilion at 7.30pm